



Achieving *together*

The HAMPTON NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (HNI) is a partnership that engages the resources of the community to make all Hampton neighborhoods good places in which to live. It simply involves working together.

CITY OF HAMPTON
Hampton Neighborhood Initiative
ANNUAL REPORT FY 2002





Building Tomorrow *together*

The vision of the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative (HNI) is that Hampton neighborhoods will be the neighborhoods of choice in the region. The HNI began in 1993 and operates under four guiding principles:

1. Hampton neighborhoods are valuable community assets.
2. Hampton neighborhoods should be places:
 - that are safe;
 - that support social interaction, recreation and education opportunities to all residents;
 - where it makes economic sense for people to invest time, energy and money in neighborhood improvement;
 - where neighbors have the capacity to manage day-to-day issues in the neighborhood; and
 - where people want to live.
3. City government should be flexible enough to serve the unique needs of individual neighborhoods.
4. Partnerships are critical. Everyone has a stake in neighborhoods and everyone has a contribution to make.

The Hampton Neighborhood Initiative is led and supported by an ever-expanding list of partners, including the Neighborhood Commission, Neighborhood Office, neighborhood based and neighborhood-serving organizations.

OUTREACH — Getting the Word Out

One of the greatest challenges in a community wide initiative is informing and engaging people from all over the community. Neighborhood Month, the single largest effort at community outreach for the HNI, continued to grow in FY2002.

Talking *together*



Neighborhood Month

Neighborhood Month, an annual month-long celebration of neighborhoods, is sponsored by the Neighborhood Commission and planned by citizen volunteers. Neighborhood Month 2002 was a great success.

■ The 2nd Annual Neighborhood Parade featured 95 units with over 1,500 participants from neighborhood organizations, church groups, schools, youth groups, city departments and constitutional offices.

■ Over 100 events were held, some of which included:

- the first-ever city-wide fire stations open house
- 67 beautification projects
- 875 bags of litter collected
- 13 festivals
- 10 fairs
- 7 cookouts
- 3 district wide events
- 2 parades

The Hampton Neighborhood Commission was the recipient of a \$5,000 sponsorship which covered nearly all of the costs for Neighborhood Month. Presentations were given to 10 area

organizations about the benefits of partnering with and participating in the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative and Neighborhood Month. Neighborhood Month has proved to be a very effective approach that engages citizens and showcases the community spirit in our city.



Neighborhood Organization Registration

Neighborhood Organization Registration is an opportunity for neighborhood-based organizations to become officially recognized as partners in the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative. In FY 2002, seven new neighborhoods became registered this year bringing the total to 18 registered neighborhoods. Eight Registered Neighborhoods made presentations to City Council highlighting their achievements. In addition, a new television program, "The Neighborhood Show", was developed to feature registered neighborhoods and airs on the city's cable station 47.



Neighborhood Web Site

In its second year, the Neighborhood Office website continues to provide neighborhoods access to resources such as a neighborhood calendar of events, neighborhood funding, neighborhood contact information, "how to" guides and a photo library of neighborhood events. Visitors can also register online for Neighborhood College and Neighborhood Month events. In addition, the site offers detailed information about each of Hampton's ten neighborhood districts and links to the Neighborhood Commission's monthly agenda and its Annual Report. The web site experienced a 17% increase in visitors. The address is hampton.gov/neighborhoods.

Publicity

Different aspects of the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative (HNI) were featured in various forms of media over the last year that included:

- 2,000 inches of print press coverage
- The HNI was featured on a 30-minute Radio Talk Show which aired on three separate radio stations
- All four network television stations
- Local Newspapers
- National Magazines
- Regional publications
- The newly created "Neighborhood Show" on the City of Hampton Cable Channel 47.
- E-news and the City Page

Registered Neighborhood Organizations

- Aberdeen Gardens Historic & Civic Association
- Buckroe Civic Association
- Elizabeth Lake Estates Civic Association
- Farmington Civic Association
- Fox Hill Athletic Association
- Grandview Island Improvement League
- Newtown Improvement & Civic Club
- Northampton Civic League
- Olde Hampton Community Association
- Olde Wythe Neighborhood Association
- Old North Hampton Community Organization
- Powhatan Park Neighborhood Watch
- Phoebus Civic Association
- Rosalee Gardens Neighborhood Association
- Sussex at Hampton Neighborhood Association
- Tyler/Seldendale Community Improvement Task Force
- Wythe-Phenix Improvement Association
- Wythe Coalition



"In unity there is strength, and with commitment and work, we can achieve."

ROOSEVELT WILSON, PRESIDENT,
ABERDEEN GARDENS HISTORIC AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

"In order for neighborhoods to succeed they need to have commitment and vision for what their community can be by mobilizing the right people to get the job done."

PASTOR KIRBYJON CALDWELL, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Learning *together*

CAPACITY:

The people, knowledge, skills, and resources to get the job done

Partnering with neighborhoods to access the people, skills, knowledge, materials and money needed to make neighborhoods places we proudly call home is a key element of the HNI.

Neighborhood Organization Capacity Building

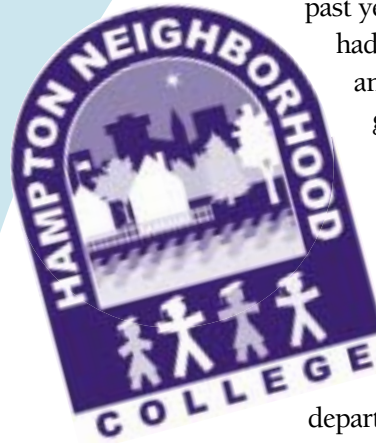
The HNI offers assistance to neighborhood organizations to build their capacity to manage the day-to-day issues that occur in neighborhoods and to work together for long term improvement. Many neighborhoods work in cooperation with the HNI in information sharing and neighborhood activities. At all levels of engagement, neighborhood organizations are the base that supports healthy neighborhoods. In FY 2002, the HNI:

- worked cooperatively with 42 neighborhood organizations in the 10 districts
- assisted 13 new neighborhoods
- held 4 District Forums
- held the Neighborhood Leadership Institute with 110 participants



Neighborhood College

The Neighborhood College is one of the first and most enduring successes of the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative. In the past year, the Neighborhood College had 53 students who attended and met the requirements for graduation. Since its inception in 1995, the Neighborhood College has graduated 303 students. The second annual City Hall Open House was also sponsored by the Neighborhood College with nearly all city departments participating and over 500 citizens attending.



Neighborhood Leadership Institute

During FY02, the Neighborhood Commission provided several opportunities for Commissioners, neighborhood leaders, youth leadership groups and city staff working with neighborhoods to develop, enhance and share their leadership knowledge and skills with each other. The Neighborhood Leadership Institute was held in November, 2001 with 110 participants in attendance. The three tracks of the Institute were leadership, communication and organizing. In addition, several districts participated in District Forums facilitated by Organizational Diagnostics Incorporated (ODI) where neighborhood leaders came together with their district commissioners to identify their priorities and develop action plans to address them.



Kenneth Wallace Neighborhood Resource Center

The Kenneth Wallace Neighborhood Resource Center continued its role as an education and training facility for neighborhoods and a police field office, under the guidance of the Kenneth Wallace Community Development Corporation Board. The majority of the district nine neighborhood organizations hold their meetings at the center and other neighborhood groups use the center for special trainings to include seminars and workshops. In FY 2002 the senior center began hosting computer classes during the day at the Kenneth Wallace Community Center for seniors who were interested in learning basic computer skills. Since opening its doors in 2000, the center has hosted 818 meetings and events. This year the center hosted 220 meetings/events averaging 18 per month. The Kenneth Wallace Community Development Corporation Board finalized the facility usage policy which will allow the rental of the facility by private entities. The Center is located at 2315 Victoria Boulevard.

Neighborhood Planning

Neighborhood Planning provides an opportunity for community members to study their neighborhood and decide how to work together to make it a better place to live, work, play and do business.



Greater Wythe Area

- Phase II of plan approved by City Council in April, 2002.
- Phase I – infill housing, congregate living facilities, land-use
- Phase II – Public safety with a goal of reducing crime, improving code enforcement & expanding programs and services for community youth and adults through a partnership with Hart McAlister Boys & Girls Club.

Buckroe

- Codes enforcement
- Improvements to the Pembroke Corridor

Aberdeen Neighborhood

- Museum project completed in 2001 & dedication planned for Sept. 2002
- The Aberdeen Gardens Historic & Civic Association won two awards from NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) for its museum project to include “National Neighborhood of the Year” in May, 2002.



North King Street Corridor

- Improvements and rehabilitation of their neighborhood center at 1279 N. King Street.

Newtown Neighborhood

- Expansion of the Little England Chapel Cultural Complex
- Drainage Improvements
- Continuing programs at the Learning Center

Olde Wythe Neighborhood

- Completed and approved by City Council in March, 2002.
- Now in the implementation phase focusing on recommendations around:
 - Crime prevention through education, information & expansion of neighborhood watch
 - Neighborhood redesign principles

Neighborhood Development Funds

The Neighborhood Development Fund Program offers funding for projects identified and developed by neighborhood groups, through Matching Grants and Neighborhood Improvement Fund grants. In the past year, the Neighborhood Commission awarded 39 grants:

- Matching Grant for the Newtown Improvement and Civic Club to hire a consultant to work with the Little England Chapel Cultural Complex Committee.
- Matching Grant for the printing of a new Buckroe Beach brochure.
- Matching Grant to send 3 members of the Aberdeens Gardens Historic and Civic Association to the Neighborhoods USA Conference in Houston, Texas.
- 15 Parade Grants for neighborhood groups to participate in the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Month Parade.
- 20 Neighborhood Month Grants for special events and clean-ups
- 1 Neighborhood Improvement Fund Grant to convert 5 overlooks on Chesapeake Avenue from vehicular to pedestrian friendly.

Since its inception in 1995, the Neighborhood Development Fund Program has awarded \$1.1 million in support of 151 community-developed projects. The Neighborhood Commission takes pride in the fact that these projects are distributed all over the city in each of the ten neighborhood districts.

Noting the demand for drainage work as the highest priority of many neighborhoods, the Neighborhood Commission asked City Council to establish a separate fund for neighborhood drainage funds. City Council approved this fund for FY 2002. Projects were approved under the Neighborhood Drainage Improvement Program for Wythe-Phenix, Rosalee Gardens, and Tyler-Seldendale.

Growing *together*

Neighborhood Reinvestment

In support of the Neighborhood Strategic Plan, the Neighborhood Commission has placed a greater emphasis on neighborhood reinvestment in the past year. Neighborhood reinvestment focuses on three primary objectives:

1. Eliminating all forms of blight and deterioration in all neighborhoods
2. Providing incentives to increase reinvestment in housing
3. Improving visual image of neighborhood entrances

Blight Abatement

Blight abatement is an extensive investment by the City and the Housing Authority to improve quality of life in the older areas of the city. Significant progress in FY 02 includes:

- Demolition of Ricton Apartments,
- 26 blighted units acquired
- 46 units demolished

Neighborhood Commercial Corridor Improvements

Neighborhood Commercial Corridor Improvements have been the focus of efforts to improve neighborhood entrances.

- Plans have been approved for the Kecoughtan Road Revitalization Project and the Pembroke Avenue corridor in the area of Buckroe Beach.
- Engineering work has started on the first phase of the East Pembroke Avenue Improvement.
- Acquisition and demolition work for the Newtown redevelopment project is complete excepting a final parcel.

Housing Reinvestment

Housing reinvestment saw significantly more progress this year as the Neighborhood Commission Reinvestment Committee selected 2 pilot areas for the Hampton Housing Venture, Olde Hampton and Pasture Point. A housing market study was also completed in both of these areas.

In the past year, the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority provided assistance for the rehabilitation of 35 homes, and constructed 6 new homes on sites cleared of blighted housing and two more are under construction.



Working *together*

Neighborhood-School Partnerships

In-Sync

The Strategic Plan recognizes the strong connection between neighborhoods and schools. The HNI contributes to strong schools and youth success through the In-SYNC partnership. In-SYNC, which stands for “Innovations for Schools, Youth, Neighborhoods and Communities”, was developed as a result of the goals that are outlined in Hampton’s Strategic Plan.

In-SYNC has been working to build Neighborhood Development Partnerships in neighborhoods that are guiding decisions about programs for youth that meet high quality standards and can be sustained into the future. FY 2002 accomplishments include:

- 44 organizational partners
- 43% increase in after-school program participation
- 64% increase in volunteer tutors in after school programs
- 53 after-school staff
- 42 tutors
- 5 teachers/tutors
- 18 enrichment classes offered to after school participants
- Tuition assistance program implemented to ensure all children and families have access to high quality after school child care and enrichment programs
- Sponsored senior computer classes at Newtown Learning Center and New Life Community Development Center

Winning *together*

Recognition & Awards

- NUSA 2002 Neighborhood of the Year Award – Aberdeen Gardens
- Virginia Statewide Neighborhood of the Year – Old North Hampton
- National Civic League All-America City Award – Y.H. Thomas Community Center
- In-Sync awarded Partner Agency of the Year from:
 - VA Cooperative Extension
 - New Life Community Development Center
 - KIDTECH



Happy *together*

Customer Delight

One of the strategic priorities for the City of Hampton is to be responsive to our customers or what Hampton calls "Customer Delight". The following feedback from our customers gives very high customer satisfaction ratings to Hampton neighborhoods.

- 91% agreed to the statement, "I feel safe in my neighborhood"
- 91% consider their neighborhoods attractive
- 88% consider their neighborhoods stable and improving



This annual report of the Hampton Neighborhood Commission describes the hard work and successes of the many partners in the Hampton Neighborhood Initiative to realize the vision that we all have of making Hampton's neighborhoods, the neighborhoods of choice in the region. With the continued support of all our partners, the Neighborhood Commission hopes to do even more in this coming year to make Hampton's neighborhoods places that we all can proudly call home.



CITY OF HAMPTON

Hampton Neighborhood Initiative

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